Appl. No.: 09/697,645
Amdt. dated 05/09/2005
Reply to final Office Action of 02/10/05

<u>Amendments to the Claims</u>:

1.   (Previously Presented)   A computer implemented method for predicting travel resource availability comprising the steps:
   receiving a candidate itinerary;
   obtaining current availability information for the candidate itinerary;
   determining a probability that the candidate itinerary will remain available for booking for a period of time in the future based at least in part upon the current availability information and historical availability information for the candidate itinerary; and
   outputting the probability.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving a candidate itinerary further comprises:
   receiving a customer request for travel; and
   selecting a candidate itinerary that satisfies the customer request.

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
   determining when the candidate itinerary will become unavailable for booking based on fare rules.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a probability further comprises:
   determining when the candidate itinerary will become unavailable given that a lower-priced itinerary has become unavailable.

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6.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining a
probability further comprises:

determining when the candidate itinerary will become unavailable based upon a flight
departure date.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining a
probability further comprises:

determining a probability that an unavailable itinerary will become available.

8.   (Currently Amended)   A method for increasing reliability of booking airline
travel itineraries comprising the steps of:

obtaining a candidate itinerary including availability information;

creating a situation table based upon availability data for the candidate itinerary from
each of at least two data sources, the situation table comprising sample itineraries and historical
availability information, wherein creating a situation table comprises:

obtaining availability information from at least two data sources based on the
candidate itinerary;

determining a difference between the availability information from the at least
two sources; and

storing in the situation table an indication that the availability information should
be updated prior to booking, wherein the indication is based on the difference; and

determining whether the availability information should be updated based on the
candidate itinerary and [[a]] the situation table that is created based upon availability data for the
candidate itinerary from each of at least two data sources.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 8 further comprising:

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dynamically updating the situation table based on the availability information.

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Currently Amended)   The method claim 8[[11]], wherein the storing step further comprises:

storing in the situation table an indication that the availability information should be updated prior to booking but only when the candidate itinerary is not rendered irrelevant by fare rules.

13.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 8[[11]], wherein the storing step further comprises:

storing in the situation table an indication that the availability information should be updated prior to booking but only when a difference between the availability information from the at least two sources exceeds an error threshold.

14.   (Previously Presented)   A system for predicting travel resource availability implemented on a computer, the system comprising:

means for receiving a candidate itinerary;

means for obtaining current availability information for the candidate itinerary;

means for determining a probability that the candidate itinerary will remain available for booking for a period of time in the future based at least in part upon the current availability information and historical availability information for the candidate itinerary; and

means for outputting the probability.

15.   (Original)   The system of claim 14 further comprising:

means for receiving a customer request for travel, and

means for selecting a candidate itinerary that satisfies the customer request.

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16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 15, further comprising:

means for determining when the candidate itinerary will become unavailable for booking based on fare rules.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 15, wherein the means for determining a probability further comprises:

means for determining when the candidate itinerary will become unavailable given that a lower-priced itinerary has become unavailable.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 15, wherein the means for determining a probability further comprises:

means for determining when the candidate itinerary will become unavailable based upon a flight departure date.

20.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 15, wherein the means for determining a probability further comprises:

means for determining a probability that an unavailable itinerary will become available.

21.   (Currently Amended)   A system for increasing reliability of booking airline travel itineraries implemented on a computer, the system comprising:

means for obtaining a candidate itinerary including availability information; and

means for creating a situation table based upon availability data for the candidate itinerary from each of at least two data sources, the situation table comprising sample itineraries and historical availability information, wherein creating a situation table comprises:

obtaining availability information from at least two data sources based on the candidate itinerary;

determining a difference between the availability information from the at least

two sources; and

storing in the situation table an indication that the availability information should

be updated prior to booking, wherein the indication is based on the difference; and

means for determining whether the availability information should be updated based on

the candidate itinerary and [[a]] the situation table that is created based upon availability data for

the candidate itinerary from each of at least two data sources.

22.   (Cancelled)

23.   (Original)   The system of claim 21 further comprising:

means for dynamically updating the situation table based on the availability information.

24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 21[[24]], wherein the means for

storing further comprises:

means for storing in the situation table an indication that the availability information

should be updated prior to booking but only when the candidate itinerary is not rendered

irrelevant by fare rules.

26.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 21[[24]], wherein the means for

storing further comprises:

means for storing in the situation table an indication that the availability information

should be updated prior to booking but only when a difference between the availability

information from the at least two sources exceeds an error threshold.

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27.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for

causing a computer to perform a method comprising the steps:

    receiving a candidate itinerary from an itinerary generation element;

    obtaining current availability information for the candidate itinerary from an availability

data source;

    determining a probability that the candidate itinerary will remain available for booking

for a period of time in the future based at least in part upon the current availability information

and historical availability information for the candidate itinerary by a processing element; and

    outputting the probability to a display element.

28.   (Original)   The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the step of

receiving a candidate itinerary further comprises:

    receiving a customer request for travel; and

    selecting a candidate itinerary that satisfies the customer request.

29.   (Cancelled)

30.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the

method further comprises the step of:

    determining when the candidate itinerary will become unavailable for booking based on

fare rules.

31.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the

step of determining a probability further comprises:

    determining when the candidate itinerary will become unavailable given that a lower-

priced itinerary has become unavailable.

32.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein

determining a probability further comprises:

determining when the candidate itinerary will become unavailable based upon a flight departure date.

33.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein determining a probability further comprises:

determining a probability that an unavailable itinerary will become available.

34.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method of increasing reliability of booking airline travel itineraries comprising the steps of:

obtaining a candidate itinerary including availability information from an itinerary generation element in communication with an availability data source; and

creating a situation table based upon availability data for the candidate itinerary from each of at least two data sources by a processing element, the situation table comprising sample itineraries and historical availability information, wherein creating a situation table comprises:

obtaining availability information from at least two data sources based on the candidate itinerary;

determining a difference between the availability information from the at least two sources; and

storing in the situation table an indication that the availability information should be updated prior to booking, wherein the indication is based on the difference; and

determining whether the availability information should be updated based on the candidate itinerary and [[a]] the situation table that is created based upon availability data for the candidate itinerary from each of at least two data sources by a processing element.

35.   (Cancelled)

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      36.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 34 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

      dynamically updating the situation table based on the availability information.

      37.   (Cancelled)

      38.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 34[[37]], wherein the storing step further comprises:

      storing in the situation table an indication that the availability information should be updated prior to booking but only when the candidate itinerary is not rendered irrelevant by fare rules.

      39.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 34[[37]], wherein the storing step further comprises:

      storing in the situation table an indication that the availability information should be updated prior to booking but only when a difference between the availability information from the at least two sources exceeds an error threshold.

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